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DEMOCRATIC
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WHO MURDERED BRITISH POWs?

British officers and soldiers were murdered in the nazi concentration camps, as well as the millions of Jews, Poles, Russians, French and German anti-fascists. This fact is well known, but recent investigations by the Committee of Anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters in the German Democratic Republic indicate

1. That the number of POWs may be greater than was hitherto supposed.
2. That many of the SS men responsible for the murders are still at large in West Germany.

Former concentration camp prisoners now living in the German Democratic Republic have been able to piece together the following information on British POWs who passed through the concentration camps at Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen. GERMAN REPORT appeals to all readers in Britain to help in filling out the gaps in the story. Here is what is at present known:

On August 17th 1944, a group of 37 British, Canadian, French and Belgian officers, presumably captured after D-Day, were brought to Buchenwald Concentration Camp. 16 of them were murdered on September 10th, 9 on October 5th, and 3 on October 13th. German anti-fascists in the camp managed to smuggle a few of the officers out to branch camps, where they may have survived. One of the officers, First Lieutenant Kenneth Dodkin, was hidden inside the camp, and is known to live today in London.

Prince Josias von Waldeck, former SS Colonel-General, the man who signed the death orders for Buchenwald camp, lives today in Hesse in West Germany, where he is a big landowner.

Many British RAF men and MTB crews are known to have been confined in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. Before the end of the war the SS destroyed all records, and it is believed that they were all murdered. Former prisoners have only been able to recall the name of one man, RAF officer John Davis, who was shot in February 1945 together with a group of his comrades.

Many of the Sachsenhausen murderers are at large in West Germany today. They include August Kolb, SS Commander of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, today living in Nuremberg; August Hoehn, SS Second-in-Command, living today at 10 Geist Strasse, Dusseldorf-Dehrendorf; Kurt Eccarius, SS Sergeant and head of the punishment department of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, now living near Coburg; and Kurt Erdmann, SS Sergeant, head of the political department of Sachsenhausen, today police officer in Stade, Westphalia.

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GERMAN REPORT makes the following appeal to readers in Britain (and in Canada, Australia, and other countries):

1. If you know of any POWs who were sent to nazi concentration camps and who survived, let us have their names and their present addresses, or get them to write to us direct. Please note that this only applies to POWs who were sent to concentration camps or labour camps, and not to prisoners who were kept in the usual POW camps (STALAG and OFLAG).

2. If you know of any books, newspaper articles, etc., written by such survivors, please let us have details, or better still send the original books or articles.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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West Germany Puts Squeeze on NATO

By Our Military Commentator

Facts are accumulating to show that West Germany is now making a determined drive to take over military leadership in NATO, and thus to become the dominant military force in western Europe.

The drive has been speeded up in recent months as a result of West German dissatisfaction with British policy which aims at a relaxation of tension.

On January 1st 1959, for instance, Wehrmacht General Friedrich Foertsch took over from British Air Marshall Hugh Constantine as Deputy Chief of Staff on the Planning Department of the NATO Command; General Foertsch is, incidentally, a convicted and later amnestied war criminal.

Earlier, in April 1957, General Hans Speidel, former nazi staff

(cont. on next page)

(cont. from front page)

officer, was appointed Commander of NATO Land Forces in Central Europe, thus taking control of all British, American, Belgian, Dutch and West German land forces in this area, the most important sector of the NATO "front". Since that date he has consistently drafted Wehrmacht officers, all of whom served Hitler, into staff positions under his command. In July 1959, British General Thompson was replaced as operations chief on Speidel's staff by the West German General Wirsing, who served as a colonel on Hitler's General Staff.

The Next Step

"The next step after a nuclear rearmed Germany will be a private German atomic arms industry (Krupp already has an interest in the first German reactor). The industrial geniuses to whom we owe the crematorium will then be able to apply their talents more widely."

"I. F. Stone's Weekly", Washington D. C., October 26th

Today, according to reports from reliable sources in Bonn, West Germany and France are working together to replace General Sir Richard Gale, British Deputy Supreme Commander of the NATO forces in Europe, with a French general. Speidel would then be promoted to command all NATO forces on the central European sector, including the air and naval forces.

The West German Government has also officially applied for a West German General to be given command of the NATO Army Group North, at present under the command of British General Sir Dudley Ward. The reason given is that with the reduction in the number of British troops stationed in Germany, the British no longer have any right to this post. Many of the staff posts in this army group are already held by former nazi officers, such as Colonel Hinrichs, head of the organisation department, and General Brandstaedter, deputy staff chief.

When the first West German Luftwaffe units were integrated in January 1959 into the 2nd and 4th Allied Tactical Air Fleet, West German officers took over many top posts. West German Brigadier General Max Heyna, formerly on Goering's Luftwaffe staff, became administrative chief of staff to the 2nd Tactical Air Fleet.

The picture is the same in the naval sector, although the West German navy is still small. A British admiral hitherto commanded the NATO Naval Forces in Northern Europe; when he retired, the West Germans refused to accept another British officer as his successor, stating that British naval strategy was ruled by defensive ideas.

When NATO accepted West Germany into membership of NATO in 1954, many British military men and politicians thought that West Germany would be content to provide the soldiers and the money. Today 18 West German generals and admirals and 233 officers of other rank have taken over key NATO command posts.

. . .a Giant U-Boot

The West German authorities have announced that a giant U-boat will soon be commissioned, in contravention of the Paris Treaties of 1954, under which West Germany pledged herself to limit submarines to 350 tons.

The new U-boat, a 2000 ton vessel with six torpedo tubes, will be commissioned in early spring, the West German Defence Ministry in Bonn announced. West German officials in Bonn claimed that the submarine would not join the regular navy but be used for experimental work, and therefore did not fall under the limitation clause.

Another spokesman said that the treaty limitation did not apply in this case, since the the relevant treaty clause states: "The Federal Republic undertakes not to manufacture . . ." whereas the new submarine had not been manufactured: it was an old nazi sub which had been raised and re-fitted.

At the same time as the commissioning of the new U-boat was announced, it became known that the West German Government had formally applied to NATO to cancel the ban on warships over 3000 tons, and the ban on influence mines. In October West Germany was officially given permission to manufacture rockets, also originally banned.

Adenauer-Franco Axis

Franco's Foreign Minister Don Fernando Maria de Castiella was received with full honours by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer when he paid his first official visit to Bonn early in November. The Spanish Foreign Minister had talks with the West German Government on support for Franco Spain's entry into NATO.

When socialist students in Bonn staged a public demonstration against the fascist visit, the West German Government hastened to apologise to the Spanish Foreign Minister.

Castiella also paid a short visit to West Berlin. The West Berlin Christian Democratic newspaper "Der Tag" welcomed him to Berlin on November 10th with a headline "Castiella will Renew Friendship" and a leading article stating:

"This is not the first time that Castiella has visited Germany. About 18 years ago he came here in the uniform of a Spanish volunteer to join the Blue Division on the eastern front."

In a speech in West Berlin Franco's Foreign Minister compared West Berlin to the Alcazar, the fortress in Toledo in which Spanish fascists were besieged in the early stages of the Spanish civil war by Republican troops. When Franco managed to lift the siege, his mercenaries celebrated the victory by slaughtering the Republican women they held as hostages, and hundreds of Republican wounded in the hospitals.

Radio News From the GDR

Radio Berlin International, the Voice of the German Democratic Republic, brings you news, music and features every day in its English, French, Swedish, Danish and Arabic programmes.

The English programme can be heard at 1800, 2000, and 2200 hours GMT on the following wavelengths:

30.83 metres = 9730 kcs
41.10 metres = 7300 kcs
49.06 metres = 6115 kcs.

In addition there is a special English programme beamed to the Near East every day at 1630 GMT on 25.49 metres = 11,765 kcs.

1000 NAZI JUDGES IN COURTS

Investigations in the nazi archives preserved in Berlin have now shown that at least 1000 of the judges and public prosecutors today working in West Germany worked in similar positions in nazi special courts. They were responsible for many thousands of death sentences on German and foreign anti-fascists, and other persons who had committed minor offences.

The names of all the nazi jurists involved have been submitted to the relevant West German authorities, but in almost all cases no action has been taken to remove these men from office.

The latest list published by the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin names a total of 200 newly-identified judges to add to the 800 names in previous publications. 23 of these men worked in responsible positions in Hitler's Reich Ministry of Justice; 164 worked as judges and prosecutors in nazi special courts and military courts; and 13 of them, who worked in normal courts, passed sentences on the basis of the special nazi anti-Semitic legislation. The old nazi files on all these men are available for inspection in East Berlin.

Of the 1000 nazi judges identified, 17 work today in the ministries of justice in Bonn and the various West German provinces; 23 work in West German Supreme Courts; and the remainder as judges and prosecutors in lower courts.

The Committee for German Unity stated that the West German authorities were deliberately delaying any action in the case of these judges, so that the statute of limitations might come into operation. Most of the crimes of these judges are regarded in West German legal practice as manslaughter, and the statute of limitations provides that charges of manslaughter may not be lodged more than 15 years after the commission of the crime. Since 1945, the date of the end of the war, is regarded as the base-line for this calculation, application of the statute of limitations would mean that after 1960 there would be no legal recourse against these criminals.

The Committee for German Unity therefore urged the West German Parliament to pass special legislation annulling the statute of limitations in these cases, or to take steps to open immediate proceedings.

PEACE ON TRIAL IN DUSSELDORF

Seven leading members of the West German Peace Committee went on trial in Dusseldorf on November 10th, charged with membership "in a secret society . . . aimed at subversion of the constitutional order".

The case is being tried by the Special Political Chamber of the Dusseldorf Provincial Court. The defendants are being defended by prominent German lawyers, and by D. N. Pritt, Q. C.

Political observers regarded the trial as an attempt to gag all organised peace activities in West Germany. Three of the accused are members of the World Peace Council and the other four have been prominent in the work of the West German Peace Committee.

The defendants are: Edith Hoereth-Menge, aged 71, who won a name in the pre-Hitler period for her opposition to German rearmament. She was a prominent member of the International Women's League of Peace and Freedom. On the opening day of the trial the court ruled, despite Frau Hoereth-Menge's protests, that her case should be heard separately because of the poor state of her health.

Erwin Eckert, aged 65, former Protestant clergyman, who spent five years in nazi jails on treason charges.

Pastor Johannes Oberhof, aged 44. He has been active in the West German peace movement since 1950.

Walter Diehl, aged 32, former theology student who has been very active in the international student movement.

Gerhard Wohlrath, aged 52, who was forced to emigrate from Germany during the nazi period. He now works as a gardener.

Gustav Tiefes, aged 38, young worker from Dusseldorf, who was seriously wounded in the Second World War, and has been active in the peace movement ever since.

Erich Kompalla, aged 38, office worker, also wounded in the Second World War and since active in the peace movement.

The case is expected to last until December 17th.

Butter Worries

This year's serious drought has caused some difficulties in butter supplies in the German Democratic Republic, as in most other European countries. The situation has been made more difficult by the fact that Democratic Germany's butter consumption, already the highest in Europe, is still rising.

The government took early steps to increase imports, so that the quantity of butter available in the last three months of the year was as much as had been available in the first quarter. The following steps have also been taken:

1. Restaurants were told to use other fats for cooking. Hitherto all frying and baking in state-owned restaurants has been done with butter.
2. Housewives have been asked to substitute the high-grade margarine now available for butter as often as they can.
3. Farmers have been urged to cut feeding of unskimmed milk to livestock, thus delivering more butter-fat for sale.

As a result of these measures it has been possible to maintain butter supplies in the shops without any increase in price. In West Germany, on the other hand, butter prices have risen sharply, along with the prices of other agricultural products affected by the drought. The price of potatoes in West Germany, for instance, has shot up to a figure between three and four times as high as the price in Democratic Germany.

West German propaganda agencies have attempted to calm public opinion in West Germany by launching scare stories of alleged butter shortages in East Germany. One of the most widely-publicised stories claimed that in Leipzig, East Germany, there was only 30 grammes (about one ounce) of butter per day available per head of the population. The story backfired when it was pointed out that in West Germany per capita consumption of butter is only about 20 grammes daily.

Pay As You Go

Fifty-two workers in a factory at Halle, German Democratic Republic, started a new form of wage payment in October.

On pay day, the 52,000 marks due the men were laid out in piles of bills and coins in a box in the foreman's office. All the workers came in singly to the otherwise empty room, checked up on a slip how much was due each of them, took the exact amount and left the room.

No-one took more than enough. Now they use this system every week and thus dispense with a paymaster.

MURDEROUS MINISTER (more)

The West German Social Democratic Party has called for the sacking of Professor Theodor Oberlaender, West German Refugee Minister, whose nazi record has been exposed in detail in the past three issues of GERMAN REPORT.

On November 4th the official press bulletin of the Social Democratic Party stated:

"For the past few months Oberlaender, Federal Refugee Minister, has been under the scrutiny of public opinion at home and abroad . . . One thing is certain: Oberlaender's political position has become untenable. Owing to his political record he forms an obstacle to a new (West) German policy vis-a-vis the eastern European states . . .

"Oberlaender, in the National Socialist portion of his career, was one of the most active supporters of the 'extension and guaranteeing of German living space' in eastern Europe . . .

"Oberlaender has never made a public declaration of contrition, or donned sackcloth. Today Oberlaender claims that during the war, when the defeat of the Hitlerite army began to cast its shadow before, he called for a better treatment of the Poles. Other people did the same. They took this step, not in order to prevent the extermination campaign, but in order to save those who could work so that they could serve the National Socialist war machine. They thereby came into conflict with the nazi fanatics who regarded such warnings as intervention in their work of total destruction.

"Oberlaender certainly kept his own hands free of blood: but this does not acquit him of serious intellectual complicity in those crimes committed in the east, crimes the responsibility for which must be carried by our people for generations.

The best service that Oberlaender could give would be to relinquish his ministerial portfolio, and fade into anonymity. Then there would no longer be any 'Oberlaender Case'."

*

In the meantime, further details of Oberlaender's past continued to emerge from the bulging files of the nazi secret archives. Inspection of nazi files in Prague revealed that on May 29th 1941 SS General Karl Hermann Frank, Deputy Reich Protector in occupied Czechoslovakia, charged Oberlaender with the task of finally closing down the Law School of the Czech University in Prague, part of the nazi scheme to stifle all Czech intellectual life. "Your job is to see to it that no sort of illegal teaching goes on", the letter stated. SS General Frank was later hanged for war crimes: Oberlaender became one of Adenauer's ministers.

Another item from the nazi archives in Prague was a letter dated October 12th 1944 from the Reich Leadership of the Nazi Party addressed to Oberlaender. The letter stated:

"You are hereby invited to a meeting of the Working Group for Research into the Bolshevik World Peril in the staff of Reich Leader Rosenberg."

In various post-war statements Oberlaender has claimed that at this time the nazi authorities had either placed him under house arrest, or had sentenced him to death. This letter proves that he was instead being invited to top level conferences with nazi cabinet members. Alfred Rosenberg, with whom he was to confer, was hanged at Nuremberg as a major war criminal: Oberlaender became one of Adenauer's ministers.

The third Oberlaender item from the nazi archives in Prague was a short note dated February 2nd 1945 and signed by Oberlaender, informing the nazi party headquarters in Prague that he had been given the command of the 610th Battalion of the Volkssturm, the nazi militia. The note ends with the greeting "Heil Hitler".

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION?

There has recently been a recrudescence in western newspapers of reports that the church is being "persecuted" in Democratic Germany. Some light is thrown on this theme by a letter printed in the "Guardian" of Manchester on November 7th, reprinted below. Further comments on the case of Bishop Dibelius may be found in the Berlin Notebook on the back page of this issue.

Sir,—May I, as an Anglican who has recently returned to this country after fourteen months spent as a fraternal worker with the German Church, comment briefly on your report of the present position of Dr Dibelius, Bishop of Berlin-Brandenburg, within that Church?

While it is true that Dr Dibelius has a considerable personal following, particularly from those who are opposed to any form of compromise with the East German Government, it is no less true that the present extreme views held by Dr Dibelius are in no way shared by the majority of his German fellow-bishops, or for that matter by the general concensus of Christian thinking in Germany. In fact the bishop has largely isolated himself from the clergy and people of his diocese. By his almost complete political committal to the policies of Dr Adenauer (of whose party he is a member) he has made it virtually impossible for the Communists to permit him to speak freely in East Germany. The same prohibition is placed on Communists in West Germany.

In a recent publication Bishop Dibelius has gone so far as to state that his conscience would not even require him to keep to the speed-limit on East German roads. He would give no allegiance to an ungodly regime. The most senior of the East German bench of bishops, Dr Mitzenheim of Thuringia, is far from accepting any such point of view, and the Synodal Government of Dr Dibelius's own diocese has publicly declared that it stands by the 1956 proclamation of the All-German Synod that "the Gospel has placed the State within the ordinances of God and these remain valid, irrespective of how the State has come into being or of its political form." The Lutheran and generally conservative Bishop of Hanover, Dr Lilje, has also repudiated the views of Bishop Dibelius which, it is feared, will only serve to aggravate further the position of Christians in East Germany.

In saying that "Dr Dibelius has the united support of the Evangelical Churches" your correspondent is apparently unaware of the deep divisions within the German Church on the issues in question. The pro-Communists are indeed a tiny minority but many Christians are convinced that Dr Dibelius is quite wrong in his belief that a constructive and positive Christian witness on the part of the Church is not possible within the East German State. — Yours &c.,

Paul Oestreicher.
22 Horton Road, Hackney,
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CHEMISTRY + SOCIALISM = A BETTER LIFE

By Phyllis Rosner

As everybody knows, synthetics and plastics play a vital part in modern civilised life, and a modern chemical industry is needed to produce them.

That is why the expansion of the chemical industry forms one of the main keynotes of the ambitious plans of the German Democratic Republic. Since the formation of the GDR ten years ago, the chemical industry here has gone ahead at break-neck speed. Even in pre-war days, this part of Germany was one of the leading chemical producers of the world, and today production is three times as high as it was in 1936.

Under the Seven Year Plan, covering the years up to 1965, the chemical industry is scheduled to double its production. This calls for the investment of 11,000 million marks (nearly £1000 million), nine times as much as was invested in the five years from 1950 to 1955.

A booming chemical industry is particularly important for the GDR, since the country possesses only scanty supplies of metal ores. It has proved possible in many fields to

Karl Wagner
constructional engineer at Coswig

substitute modern plastics for steel, copper and other metals, and experts reckon that by 1965 plastics produced from domestic sources will have taken the place of two million tons of imported metals.

Synthetic fibres form another big part of the programme. Fibres like Wolcrylon, a non-crease, heat-resistant wool-like fibre, produced at Agfa, famous for its films, are as good as anything produced in the west, and in synthetic fibre production the GDR now leads the world in per capita output.

Already the East German chemical industry employs over a quarter of a million people and absorbs more than a third of the country's electric power. With the fulfilment of the new plans it will absorb even more power, but not much more labour. The programme will be carried through in the main by intensive planning and rationalisation, carried out by workers who own the factories in which they work.

To help with the chemical programme, to increase plastics production by 250 per cent and output of synthetic fibres by 460 per cent, the Soviet Union has granted East Germany a special loan of 240 million roubles. This will be repaid over the years by exports of chemicals and equipment for the Soviet Union's own chemical industry.

In addition, work has already started for the world's longest pipeline to bring oil from the borders of Asia right across Poland into the GDR. The huge oil refinery now being constructed at Schwedt will receive at least two million tons of oil by 1963 and, by 1965, this is to be increased to approximately five million tons per year.

This will be of immense importance to the GDR's chemical industry, whose present main raw material is soft coal. A considerable part of this soft coal is at present consumed in the relatively expensive process of producing synthetic petrol. The 2000-mile pipeline will provide big supplies of cheaply transported natural oil both for fuel and as a raw material for plastics and man-made fibres.

The pipeline, the synthetic fibre factory at Guben, the huge "Black Pump" soft coal combine — Europe's largest —and the Coswig sulphuric acid plant, are key centres in the GDR's ambitious chemical programme.

Construction of the Coswig plant started in 1956 and it should begin producing by mid-1960, when it will be the world's largest sulphuric acid plant. Targets are 200,000 tons each of sulphuric acid and an equal amount of Portland cement (a by-product) annually, to be raised to 300,000 tons of each by 1965. (For experts, the cement will be PC 375, that is to say, after a week it should be able to stand 375 kilogramms of weight per square centimetre).

In Britain there are three sulphuric acid plants, one at Billingham producing 80,000 tons annually, another at Whitehaven producing a similar amount and a third at Widnes producing 120,000 tons annually. Production in other West European countries, for example in France and Austria, is far less.

Coswig will be a highly automated factory. Only about 700 people will be

Franz Wach,
building worker on the project

working there, and of these only 500 will actually be engaged in production — and these in three shifts. Already some of the workers are being trained in other chemical plants, at the Agfa-Wolfen and Leuna factories, to take over next year at Coswig.

Everybody at Coswig to whom we spoke the other day, from the building workers to the engineers and manager, was confident that production would start as planned in June 1960. Right now Coswig is a huge building site, with carpenters, building workers and engineers busy constructing this industrial giant.

Right from the start, when the project was first planned, 35-years old Karl Wagner has been active in the Coswig works. He told us, "Of course we have our problems. There is the

problem of getting all the material we need and getting it on time; of coordinating the work of 80 different firms on the job, mostly nationally-owned, but some private firms too. There is the problem of working with a largely 'floating' labour force and there was the problem of trouble-makers and even hostile agents in our midst."

One of the other members of the team responsible for carrying through the project is Horst Kirsten, a chemical engineer, who started out in life as a draughtsman with the former I. G. Farben firm.

"You might wonder," he said to us, "why we chose this area. There are several reasons — here are some of them: water is available on the spot, and we need plenty of that. Coswig is on the main Dessau-Wittenberg railway line and directly on the Autobahn. We shall have no difficulty in finding the necessary workers in the area and what is more, much of the electric power we shall need we can obtain from the Elbe power station, just round the corner."

There were other considerations too. For instance Coswig will be able to supply much of the cement needed in the district for other projects, it will be the centre of a chemical combine consisting of the sulphuric acid plant, a neighbouring factory producing the same chemical, but using pyrites as a basic raw material, and another producing aluminium.

"We've got a big job on here, but I'm pretty confident we are going to solve it. It isn't only important for the GDR, but for the whole socialist world. For us it is particularly important because sulphuric acid is the life-blood of chemistry. Coswig has another extremely important advantage for us, we can work entirely from materials produced within the country."

When Coswig gets going, every day it will use a train load of gypsum (produced in the Harz area, about 115 miles away), it will use sand, clay, coke, soft coal (on which the GDR is more or less built) and other materials. It will use huge amounts of water and enormous quantities of power for the ovens and other machinery. Eventually it is planned to link Coswig with gas being produced by the "Black Pump" combine.

As we strolled round the site afterwards Kirsten said to us, "I'm 37, quite an old man compared to the average age of the engineering team at Coswig. But everywhere, here in Coswig and elsewhere in the GDR, youth gets a chance. Why, if I had still been working for I. G. Farben I would have had to be at least ten to fifteen years older to get a job with this responsibility."

Franz Wach, 52, one of the building workers at Coswig, said: "I was in two world wars and like millions of other people I want nothing more of war. All nations should concentrate on constructive things, like the work we are doing here."

By chance the next person we spoke to was also comparatively young, 25-year old Hans Toettich, head of a building brigade of which his father is also a member. "Yes", he said to us, "our brigade will fulfil the target for the GDR's 1959 plan ahead of time."

Most members of his brigade earn about 500 marks net a month, consisting of their salary and a daily separation allowance varying between four to eight marks because they live away from home. The men pay an average of a mark a night for accomodation and morning coffee. There is a canteen which serves a hot meal daily for an average of one mark also.

Apart from recreation rooms with television, wireless, draughts, chess and billiards, there is a weekly film show and dance or concert. If the men want an evening out, they can go to Coswig which is about twenty minutes' walk away.

We talked with many of the workers, practically all glad to be working at Coswig. One of the oldest on the job is 70-year old Otto Aterman, an anti-fascist who spent several years in a concentration camp. "Honestly, I enjoy every day of my life now, living and working in the Socialist part of Germany. I work hard because I know to live better we must work more," he said.

Part of this 'living better' will be the Coswig plant. It will help East Germany produce many types of consumer goods, more food and more machinery.

Just because of its many uses the degree to which the sulphuric acid industry grows is a gauge of a country's entire chemical industry. And Coswig — the world's largest single sulphuric acid plant — will next year be a going concern.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES

New Chemical Plant

Work began recently in the GDR on the building of one of Europe's biggest and most modern chemical factories. The new factory complex, to be known as "Leuna 2", will be constructed near the great Leuna Chemical Works south of Halle. The machines and refineries of the new works, which will be completed by 1965, will be so highly automated that only about 1300 workers will be needed to turn out the same quantity of chemicals as 7000 in less modern plants. Main products will be polyethelene, used for hard plastic products, and caprolactam, basic material for the production of Dederon, the nylon-like material which is the main synthetic fibre produced in the GDR.

Giant Power Station

Enough electricity for a city the size of London will be produced by the huge new power plant now being built at Vetschau, south of Berlin. When completed, 44,000 tons of lignite coal will be needed every day to keep the giant turbines moving at their capacity of 1,200,000 kilowatts.

The Vetschau plant, which will begin operations in September 1963, is the newest in a series of similar projects, all destined to meet the rapidly growing need for electricity of consumers and factories in Democratic Germany.

Together with its twin plant at Luebbenau seven miles away, more current will be supplied from this small area than was generated by all power plants in the whole area of the present German Democratic Republic in the pre-war peak year of 1936.

Biggest-Ever Dam

Germany's biggest-ever dam has just been formally opened near Wendefurth in the Harz Mountains, in the western part of the German Democratic Republic.

The dam, which is over 300 feet high, will block the waters of the Rappbode river and form a lake five miles long with a capacity of 110 million tons of water. The huge new reservoir will largely be used to provide water for the great new industrial developments in this area of the Democratic Republic.

Cement for Syria

Twenty engineers and craftsmen from Democratic Germany are directing the construction of a modern cement factory near Aleppo in Syria (United Arab Republic). The factory, made of parts constructed in the German Democratic Republic, will produce 300 tons daily.

HUNGRY GDR? See the Figures!

In this table we present statistics comparing food consumption in Democratic Germany with some other European countries. The figures are not always strictly comparable, since different methods of computing are often used in different countries. British sugar figures include sugar used in brewing, for example, and milk consumption is measured in many different ways. Food habits also account for many of the differences; Italians eat little butter but much oil, Britons prefer tea as a beverage, etc.

(annual figures — in pounds)

Country (Year)	Meat	Milk	Butter	Cheese	Fish	Sugar	Cocoa	Coffee
Britain (1957)	137	323	17.5	10	22	110	1.6	1.6
Belg-Luxem. (1956-7)	121	203	19	12.1	25	67	4	8.8
Netherlands (1956-7)	92	383	6	14.3	16	89	3.7	6.4
Italy (1957)	49	+	3.5	14.5	15	38	0.4	3.5
Denmark (1957)	152	200	22	15.6	30	107	+	+
W. Germany (1957-8)	116	253	16	9.5	27	62	+	+
GDR (1958)	112	215	26	8.3	29	68	3	1.5
GDR (planned-1965)	*130*	*311*	*30*	*11*	*40*	+	*8*	*4.4*

(Sources of Statistics: Annual Abstract of Statistics No. 95 — 1958, London; BENELUX 1948—1958, Brussels; Annuario Statistico Italiano 1958, Rome; Statistik Arbog 1958, Copenhagen; Statistisches Jahrbuch fuer die Bundesrepublik Deutschland — 1959, Wiesbaden; Seven Year Plan of the GDR, Berlin, October 1st 1959.)

TRADE UNION CONGRESS MEETS

The Free German Trade Union Federation, representing the 6,000,000 trade union members of Democratic Germany, held its 5th Congress in East Berlin at the end of October.

Delegates to the Congress, which was also attended by guests from 45 countries, centred their main attention on the best methods of running industry and attaining a maximum improvement in living conditions during the present 7 Year Plan period.

Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, addressing the Congress in his capacity as delegate and long-standing member of the Woodworkers' Union, spoke of two new methods in reaching these goals. One was the formation of the "joint production teams" — groups of technicians, engineers and workers cooperating to solve technical production and practical research problems.

The other method was that of the "socialist labour brigades" — teams of workers on one job or production line who decide voluntarily to work together towards higher quantity and better quality.

The brigades had already taken on broader significance, Herr Ulbricht pointed out, as they began to learn and study together, to organise social and cultural life, to invite the workers' wives to visit their factory, and to go together with their families to the theatre. "The old methods or habits, where the husband went to the pub alone to play cards and the wife sat at home and darned stockings, must become a thing of the past."

Herbert Warnke, Chairman of the Free German Trade Union Federation, said in his main report that "the working class in the German Democratic Republic has become the ruling class... The trade unions need no longer fight bitterly for the smallest social rights and then defend them constantly against the attacks of capitalism." The trade unions take part on all levels of planning, Herr Warnke pointed out, and "make sure that the share of the working class in the distribution of national income is constantly increasing".

He then detailed many of the ways for accomplishing this improvement in the standard of living. Real wages will increase about 60—65% by 1965, mostly as a result of pay raises. These will be largest for lower-paid workers in light industry, retail trade and agriculture.

Other points in the programme included an all-out fight against the last vestiges of over-time work and a great increase in the number of courses and schools so as to encourage workers to qualify themselves for the more complicated technological jobs of the future.

In the cultural field, always stressed strongly in the work of the Free German Trade Union Federation, Chairman Herbert Warnke called for the local unions to turn from urging members to go to the theatre and read literature and start encouraging them to make their own theatre and even write their own books. He praised especially the workers' theatre which had already been started by employees at the shipyards in Warnemunde on the Baltic.

The Congress also called on the West German Trade Union Federation to work together for peace, to exchange study delegations and bring youth committees together.

Greetings to other trade unionists in all countries were voted for by the delegates, who called for closer contacts with unions in Britain, Belgium, Austria and Scandinavia, pledged to cooperate in every way possible with the young unions in Africa and Asia and wished success to the Algerian workers in their struggle for liberty.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

You may be surprised to find this notebook devoting some space today to a theological study, but I fear it is necessary for the understanding of a recent clash provoked by Bishop Otto Dibelius, one of Germany's leading Protestant churchmen.

The bishop recently published a little pamphlet entitled "Obrigkeit", nearest English translation for which is "The Powers That Be". He took as his text the first verse of chapter 13 of the Epistle to the Romans from the New Testament, which runs as follows:

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

Theologists Say

My theological advisers assure me that in the past the Evangelical Church in Germany has interpreted this verse as meaning that a good Christian should be a good citizen, obeying the laws and the regulations except in such cases where this would directly contravene the dictates of conscience. This is the way in which it is interpreted by the church authorities in the German Democratic Republic. The latest pronouncement on the subject was made by the Reverend D. Moritz Mitzenheim, senior Evangelical Bishop in Democratic Germany, who stated on October 6th this year that Christians would fulfil their duties as citizens, respect the development in the direction of socialism, and contribute to peaceful construction.

But this is by no means the view of Bishop Dibelius, who has his seat in West Berlin, but who has hitherto also preached regularly in East Berlin. In his new pamphlet he states flatly that he has no intention of obeying the laws or regulations of Democratic Germany.

You may think I am exaggerating, so let me quote you a short passage from the Bishop's pamphlet:

"Let us take an example: if, in the so-called free world (when motoring) I see a traffic sign imposing a speed limit of 15 kilometres an hour, I naturally obey it. I know that this regulation applies to everybody, and that there is a sensible reason for it. If I do not obey this sign, then I am troubled by my conscience as a Christian.

"But if I see such a traffic sign on the motor highway of the GDR . . . such a sign has no authority for me, since I do not regard it as legitimate . . . It has only been erected because the Elbe Bridge is still not finished, since the money is being used to train Women's Battalions to conquer West Berlin in street fighting . . . If I am then stopped for driving too quickly, I shall pay my fine, but my conscience will be free of any feeling of guilt. Why is this so? Because I know that every regulation in a totalitarian state has been deliberately framed without the help of God . . . framed by a regime which I should like to see overthrown in the name of God and Jesus Christ."

I think it is scarcely necessary to counter the bishop's weird statement that some bridges in the GDR have not yet been repaired because the money is used for training Women's Battalions which should conquer West Berlin. The bishop appears to have exclusive rights to this particular lie: I have never encountered it anywhere else in the very extensive gallery of lies about Democratic Germany. But if you have read carefully the sentences quoted above, you will see that the Bishop is doing nothing more nor less than to call on the Christians in Democratic Germany to disobey even such obvious rules as the traffic regulations, and to go on from that to overthrow the Government in the name of God.

The authorities in the German Democratic Republic have been very patient with Bishop Dibelius in the past, in the attempt to avoid any unnecessary friction between church and state, but this was too much. On October 28th the bishop was invited to the City Hall in East Berlin (I wonder whether he obeyed the "No Parking" sign outside?), and was told politely but firmly that under the circumstances he would no longer be allowed to carry out any activities in East Berlin. Whereupon, of course, the West German press broke out in a rash of headlines about alleged "Persecution of the Church". I am glad to be able to state that most Christian leaders in Democratic Germany had expressed their disapproval of Bishop Dibelius' attitude even before this measure had to be taken.

I think this is an appropriate time to rescue from the archives another pronouncement made by Bishop Dibelius 31 years ago. At that time he was General Superintendent of the Evangelical Church in the Kurmark, an area near Berlin. In this capacity he sent out a regular printed circular to the pastors in this area. On April 3rd 1928 he wrote:

"My dear brothers, ... We will all have not only understanding, but also full sympathy for the final motives which have given rise to the nationalist movement. Despite the ugly sound which has often attached itself to the word, I have always regarded myself as an anti-Semite . . . May God bless our Easter and our Easter message."

It is of course possible that the bishop has changed his ideas in the meantime, but this circular was reprinted in a Berlin newspaper in 1951, and I can find no record that the bishop has ever publicly renounced his anti-Semitism.

Odd Attempts

Odd attempts are being made at the moment to present West German Chancellor Adenauer as a fine old democrat who is battling hard to keep old nazis out of key posts in West Germany. Latest such attempt, which I will ascribe to ignorance and not ill-will, appeared in the London Sunday paper "Reynolds News" on November 1st, in a column signed by Woodrow Wyatt. His opening sentence was, "It is easy to exaggerate stories of Nazi revivalism and to minimise the heroic work done by Dr Adenauer to encourage the Germans to be democratic." After this, Mr Wyatt gives a number of examples of re-nazification in the police force and the schools, examples which will be familiar to regular readers of GERMAN REPORT, and then states:

"Stubborn old man that he (Adenauer) is, he has nevertheless done his best to reform the German character."

Which is just blarney. If Adenauer were really doing such "heroic work", then he would have to start in his own immediate surroundings, and sack his cabinet minister Professor Theodor Oberlaender, died-in-the-wool nazi storm troop officer and fifth columnist, and his State Secretary Hans Globke, his personal assistant, who drew up the official nazi legal commentary to the anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws.

Keeping gentlemen like this in his entourage seems an odd way to "reform the German character".

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